REMARKS

The amendments and remarks presented herein are consistent with those noted by Applicant's representative in the telephone call to the Examiner on October 16, 2007. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action mailed August 17, 2007, considered and rejected claims 1, 3-19 and 21-30. Claims 1, 3-19, and 21-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Balaji* (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0015439) and *Hibbert* ("Visual Flex and XML") in view of *Draper* (U.S. Patent No. 6,581,062) and *Haeberle* (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0080805).[1]

By this amendment, claims 1, 15, 21 and 28 have been amended, claims 3, 17, 19 and 22-27 cancelled, claims 31-36 added.[2] Accordingly, following entry of this paper, claims 1, 4-16, 18, 21 and 28-36 are pending, of which claims 1, 15, 21 and 28 are the only independent claims at issue.

As previously discussed with the Examiner, Applicant's claims are generally directed to methods and systems for providing any of a number of applications with access to the same set of contact data, despite the use of the applications of any of a variety of different data formats. For example, as recited in claim 1, a method is disclosed for simplifying access to schematized contact data by an application lacking the configuration to natively access contact data stored on a centralized and single data store. In the claim, a request is received to access contact data from a single and centralized data store, the contact data being stored according to a schema and requested by an application lacking the native capacity to access data in the schematized format. The application then calls an external contact data control to request the contact data in a format that is non-schematized and understood by the application. Specifically, the application requests that the external contact control retrieve the contact data and translate it from the schematized format of the data store to the non-schematized format. The request also includes a request that the contact data provide the application with authorization to access the schematized contact data as the application natively lacks not only the configuration to access the schematized contact data, but also the authorization to do so. Thereafter, the application receives requested contact data from the data control in a non-schematized format after it was converted from the schematized format by the data control. The information provided in the non-schematized format is then displayed on a display

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[1] Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

[2] Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found throughout Applicant's originally filed application, including at least the disclosure of original paragraphs 47, 51, 52, 68, 75, 59, 61, as well as in the originally filed figures and claims.

device as requested by the application, notwithstanding the application being unable to access the schematized data.

Independent claim 21 recites a system which has one or more processors and computer readable media encoded to have a centralized data store as well as one or more applications which perform a method generally corresponding to the method of claim 1. Independent claim 15 recites a method which generally correspond to the method of claim 1, but in which the application displays non-schematized contact data receives updates thereto, and for which the application then transmits the updates to the data control to request conversion to a schematized format and to provide the application access to the schematized contact data for updating the data on the centralized, single data store. Independent claim 28 recites a system which has one or more processors and computer readable media encoded to have a centralized data store as well as one or more applications which perform a method generally corresponding to the method of claim 1, but in which updates are also received and in which authorization to access the data includes the external data control managing access to limit the application to only limited portions of the contact data, and further suppressing fields of the accessible data which have null values. Accordingly, each of the claims have generally corresponding elements. Consequently the discussion below applies to not only claim 1, but each of the other independent claims, as well as the dependent claims which, by definition, include the elements of the independent claims from which they depend.

As previously discussed with the Examiner, *Balaji* relates to a system in which data is converted between formats. Specifically, a system is disclosed which converts data between a format readable to a client application (non-schematized data) and an XML format (schematized data), so as to allow other applications to read the XML format to read the data stored in format of the client application. Notably, however, while *Balaji* thus an application which converts between formats, it fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in the above claims, whether alone or in combination with the other cited references. For example, *Balaji, Hibbert, Draper* and *Haeberle* fail, whether alone or in combination, to disclose or suggest wherein an application makes a request to an external contact data control to access/update information data stored in a centralized and single data store, and in which the application lacks not only the configuration to access the data, but also the necessary authorization to access the data, and in which the external data control manages the application's access to the data, as recited in combination with the other claims. Indeed, *Balaji* and the other references appear to merely disclose that when data is requested, it is retrieved without any

consideration of whether the requesting application has authorization to access the data, let alone by using the external data control to manage the authorization to access the data.

In particular, *Balaji* discloses a flexible architecture component (FAC) in which client applications are network connected so as to access the various respective data sores having data stored in formats not understood by other client applications. (*Abstract*; ¶ 15). To make the data understandable by the other applications, each data source is registered with a schema registry to record the syntax and semantics of the data of the source as a schema definition. (¶ 28). The client applications are also provided with an adapter to allow the client applications to convert data from their respective data sources into XML formatted data and then import the XML formatted data into a FAC database. (¶ 29). Each client application can then be modified to use the adapter to and retrieve data from other applications from the FAC and have it exported to the application in the desired format. (¶30).

Accordingly, *Balaji* discloses a system in which a FAC database is one of various databases, and in which any of multiple applications access the data of other applications by storing their own data redundantly on a FAC database. Thereafter, when data from another application is needed, the application accesses the FAC database instead of the proprietary database and has an adapter convert the data to the desired format. Notably, however, *Balaji* is silent in regards to the adapter, in addition to converting the data, managing the authorization of the application to access different data, as recited in combination with the other claim elements.

Applicant also respectfully submits that *Hibbert, Draper* and *Haeberle* fail to remedy the deficiencies of *Balaji*. In particular, *Hibbert* generally discloses the use of XML files with Visual DataFlex, in which a DTD is used as a vocabulary to describe data, so that it can be maintained in application databases. (pp. 19-21). *Hibbert* fails, however, to disclose wherein data is not only converted to a schematized format by a data control, but that that data control is requested to manage the authorization of the application to access requested data. Inistead, *Hibbert* merely discloses general schemes for describing data.

Similarly, *Draper* discloses a general system for converting between structured data (such as SQL) and semi-structured data (such as XML). (Col. 1, ln. 65 to Col. 2, ln. 14). In the system, a mapper is created to generate a structured organization for a corresponding collection of semi-structured data, along with a table describing how the semi-structured data is stored in the structured organization. (Col. 2, ll. 26-31). Accordingly, *Draper* relates to methods and systems for converting

between structured and semi-structured data, but does not have any disclosure regarding managing the authorization to access the file.

Haeberle is no more instructive than the remaining references cited by the Office. Specifically, *Haeberle* discloses a system for obtaining service and maintenance records about equipment located at remote locations. In the system, a web portal is provided which includes a number of applications are coupled to a database and store operational, maintenance, configuration, or other data of different equipment in a format specific to each application. (¶ 74).

Thus, *Haeberle* merely discloses a system in which a common database is maintained to allow access from multiple different locations, but is silent as to the use or existence of any external data control which converts data between different formats and manages authorization to access data when an application does not have authority to access the data. In fact, it appears in *Haeberle* that any connected application can access the data without any privilege or authorization check of any type, by any component.

Accordingly, the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest any external data control which not only converts data between formats, but also manages the authorization of the requesting application to access/update data when the requesting application does not have authorization to access the data, as recited in combination with the other claim elements.

Additionally, Applicant notes that the Office appears to concede that *Balaji*, *Hibbert* and *Draper* fail to disclose wherein a centralized data store acts as a single data store of contact data for a plurality of applications which access the contact data, and in which the centralized data store stores all contact data for the plurality of applications according to a single schema not natively accessible by one or more of the applications. (Office Action, pp. 15, 16). For this teaching, the Office turns to paragraphs 21 and 74 of *Haeberle*. Notably, in paragraph 21, *Haeberle* briefly notes that Web access is provided and enables data mining applications and a historical database to be maintained at a common physical site so that every building does not need its own database and data mining application. In paragraph 74, *Haeberle* elaborates to note that the data mining applications are coupled to the database that may be one or more databases. Further, separate databases are recommended to separate the data of different sites from one another because different data formats are better suited for various types of data. In other words, the database, even if combined to include a single database, includes data of various types of data, rather than data stored according to a single schema not accessible to at least one of the applications.

While not necessary, Applicant briefly notes that various other claims have not been fully considered by the Office, and include subject matter not disclosed or taught by the cited references. For example, claim 13 recites wherein the act of calling the contact data control that determines the contact data to be displayed based on user-input comprises an act of determining the contact data to be displayed based on a dynamically updated presentation template. In the Office Action, the Office notes that *Hibbert* shows contact data abstracted as a DTD and notes that schemas and DTDs perform the same function in the context of an exemplary schema fragment of contact data. (Office Action, p. 8). The Office then notes that *Hibbert* discloses well-known use of CSS and XSL and commonly known formatting templates. Notably, the Office does not even assert that the art teaches presentation templates which are <u>dynamically updated</u>. Moreover, in the sections cited by the Office, the only mention of dynamic action is to swap style sheets, rather than to update style sheets.

Additionally, with respect to claim 18, the claim recites wherein the external contact control checks the validity of the contact data received by the application in a non-schematized format. The Office appears to have misinterpreted the claim as reciting checking the validity of schematized content/structure (rather than non-schematized con tact data) inasmuch as the Office Action merely notes that *Hibbert* discloses wherein a document is validated, and the cited portion of *Hibbert* discloses only that if a DTD or Schema (which *Hibbert* and the Office equate as being equal), can include a file definition that tells the application what data records will look like so that a check can be performed on the data content/structure of the <u>XML</u> file to ensure it conforms to the intended validity. In other words, *Hibbert* discloses checking the validity of schematized data, rather than non-schematized data.

Additionally, with respect to claims 4-11 the Office notes that the features, although not taught by the art of record, include a list of "well-known features that are outside of the application's inventive crux of data transformation via a schema-based system." The Examiner has previously noted that the rejection is a type of Official Notice. Notably, however, the Applicant has repeatedly asked for the Office to support this position and provide an explicit statement of why one of ordinary skill in the art would add such features to the art of record, and the Office has, each time, failed to do so. Furthermore, Applicant is unaware of any reason why stating that the features are outside of the "inventive crux" of the disclosed invention relieves the Office of this duty.
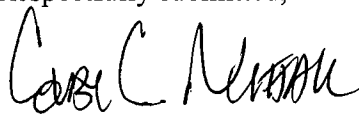
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the

purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or, as noted above, implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required reason why one of skill in the art would combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (801) 533-9800.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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